

10 am, Thursday, 26 October 2017

## Locality Committees 2017

<b>Item number</b>	8.3
<b>Report number</b>	
<b>Executive/routine</b>	
<b>Wards</b>	
<b>Council Commitments</b>	C52

### Executive Summary

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At the meeting on 30 June 2017, Council agreed to explore creating locality committees and established four working groups to have initial discussions. This report, building on the work of the groups, sets out proposals for establishing locality committees.

In establishing this new Council governance framework, the potential this has for enhancing community planning arrangements is recognised. On this basis, the report sets out proposals for a wider review and consultation of community planning structures and working arrangements at neighbourhood and locality levels with these to be recommended to the Edinburgh Partnership for inclusion as part of its current governance review.

## Locality Committees 2017

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 To agree locality committees should be established based on the principles in paragraph 3.4 and detailed proposals should be set out in a report to Council in November 2017 for final approval;
- 1.2 To carry out a review and consultation of community planning structures and working arrangements at neighbourhood and locality levels, to inform the Edinburgh Partnership governance review;
- 1.3 To seek formal agreement to the review and consultation proposals from the Edinburgh Partnership at its meeting on 7 December 2017;
- 1.4 To continue with the Neighbourhood Partnerships pending the outcome of the proposed review and consultation of community planning arrangements;
- 1.5 To refer this report to Culture and Communities Committee on 14 November 2017 for noting and discussion of the review and consultation process; and
- 1.6 To agree that strategic oversight of the review and consultation process will be the responsibility of the Culture and Communities Committee.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 The direction of travel for the Council has been, in recent years, to decentralise Council decision making and increase community participation in the democratic process. This was informed by the Christie Commission and the Commission on the Renewal of Local Democracy.
- 2.2 In 2007, Neighbourhood Partnerships (NPs) were established, which changed the way the Council operated in terms of many of its services and created partnerships involving elected members, police, fire and NHS, the voluntary sector and the community. Community involvement is central to these arrangements with a range of opportunities for participation being provided.
- 2.3 This was followed in 2014/15 with the shift to localities which aims to strengthen partnership working and community engagement, whilst providing a new operating model for Council service delivery and integrated joint working.
- 2.4 With the publication of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the focus on locality working, there is now an opportunity for the Council to develop and

improve its approach to devolved decision making, delivery of local services, and community engagement and empowerment.

- 2.5 There is also recognition of future change with the Scottish Government expected to commence a review of Local Governance by the end of 2017, ahead of a Local Democracy Bill scheduled for the summer of 2018. This review will shape the detail of how control over budgets and service moves closer to local communities.

### **3. Main report**

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#### **Locality Committees**

- 3.1 Edinburgh has long been recognised for being a leader in its approach to participatory democracy and partnership working. The drive for continuous improvement and innovation, which is at the core of the city's approach, has been given renewed impetus with the introduction of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, the shift to a localities model of partnership working and service delivery, and the establishment of a new governance framework for the Council.
- 3.2 A current gap in the locality structure is the lack of elected member oversight and decision making, creating a democratic deficit that needs to be addressed as part of this report.
- 3.3 Within this context, there is an opportunity to develop a new approach to locality governance. The establishment of Council locality committees will be an important element of this framework and will provide scope to:
  - 3.3.1 Recognise the facilitation/leadership role of elected members in supporting and promoting participation
  - 3.3.2 Support capacity building of all stakeholders - elected members, communities and officers
  - 3.3.3 Support better/more meaningful relationships between the community and the Council - based on transparency and open and honest communication
  - 3.3.4 Provide scope for innovation and creativity - recognising the strengths and role communities have in improving outcomes and providing solutions to difficult problems
  - 3.3.5 Foster diversity and inclusiveness – supporting and removing barriers to participation, enabling all affected citizens and communities to be involved
  - 3.3.6 Demonstrate impact – show clearly the difference the participation has made to the decision making process
- 3.4 To achieve this, it is proposed to apply core principles whereby the locality committees will:
  - 3.4.1 be decision making committees made up of all elected members from the locality area;

- 3.4.2 have the power to set up working groups or sub-committees;
  - 3.4.3 be open, transparent and inclusive;
  - 3.4.4 be held in public, invite local partners and community groups to attend and actively seek public engagement;
  - 3.4.5 have power to make decisions on local services which are within devolved budgets and are in line with Council policy;
  - 3.4.6 have a role in scrutiny of services provided for the locality;
  - 3.4.7 take an active role in community planning;
  - 3.4.8 have a clearly defined structure and strategy for engaging with residents and the local community;
  - 3.4.9 have clearly defined advisory and decision-making roles; and
  - 3.4.10 have clearly defined first phase powers.
- 3.5 Detailed proposals, including a full remit, which establish locality committees will be presented for approval at the next Council meeting.

**Locality and neighbourhood community planning structures and working arrangements**

- 3.6 Increasing community participation in decision making and improving outcomes for citizens and communities through the provision of effective and responsive services are the core drivers for community planning. These objectives inform the role of NPs and the localities model. In developing new Council governance arrangements there is an opportunity to review and strengthen current partnership structures and processes.

3.7 The current partnership framework at a locality and neighbourhood level is shown below.

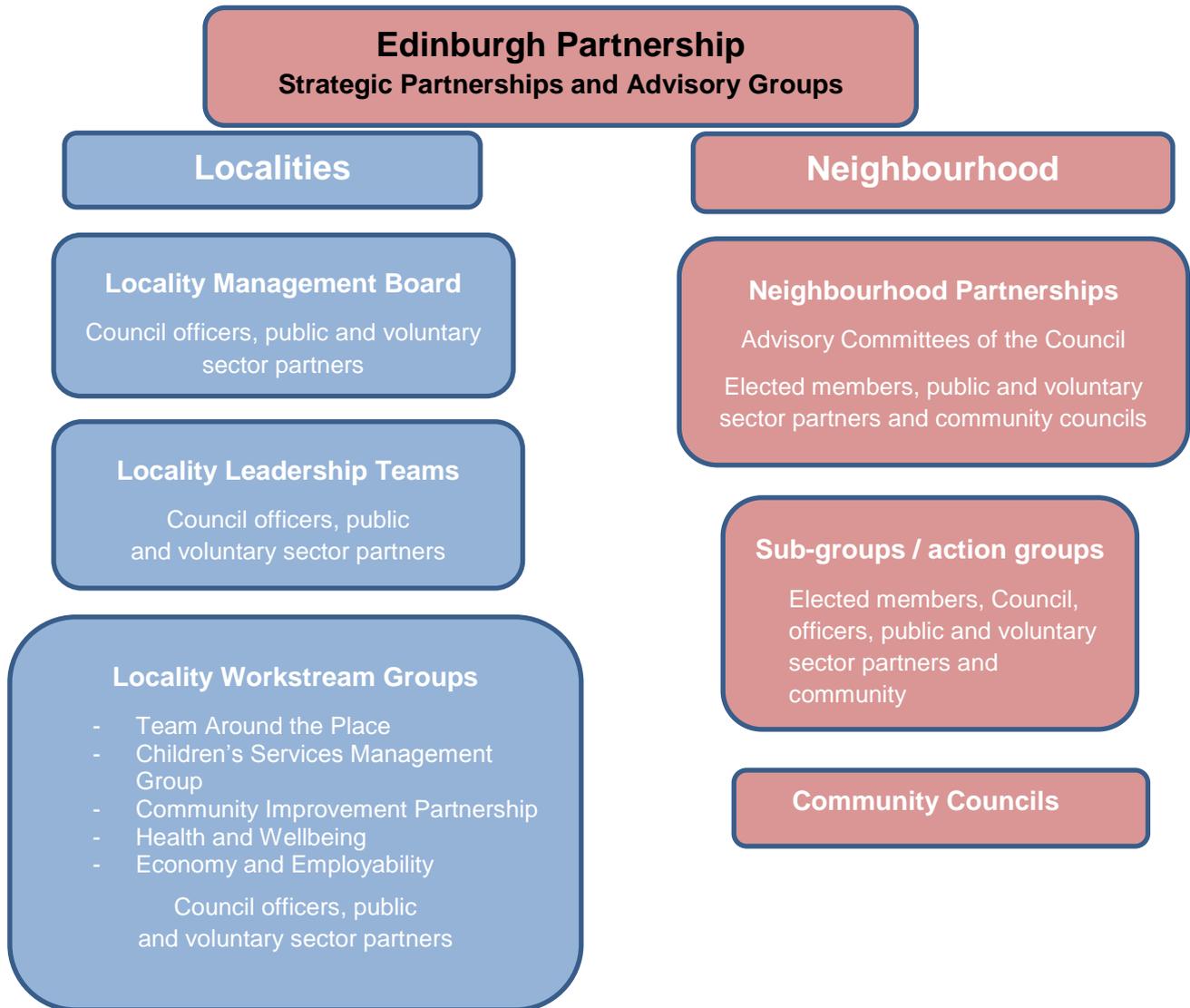


Diagram 1: Current Locality and Neighbourhood Community Planning Framework

3.8 This represents the primary structures created to support partnership working and recognises the role of community councils. It is not exhaustive and there are other groupings relating to the Health and Social Care integration and locality workstream activity in each locality. The wider community points of influence and involvement are not reflected. A key task of the review will be to map these arrangements for each locality.

3.9 These arrangements form part of the Edinburgh Partnership 'family' which also includes at the city level Strategic Advisory Groups and Strategic Partnerships. These are responsible for delivering effective community planning, the delivery of

relevant policies described within the Edinburgh Partnership strategic planning framework, and advice on policy and service matters.

- 3.10 A key issue with the current governance framework is the lack of formal relationships between the component parts. Framing the proposed review and consultation of locality and neighbourhood structures within the context of the current Edinburgh Partnership governance review provides an ideal opportunity to address this issue. Agreement will be sought from the Edinburgh Partnership to the review and consultation proposals at its meeting on 7 December 2017. The potential the process has in informing the development of the locality committees is also recognised.
- 3.11 The proposed review and consultation will seek to develop a governance framework that:
- 3.11.1 Strengthens community influence/participation in decision making
  - 3.11.2 Provides clear lines of accountability and greater transparency
  - 3.11.3 Strengthens the approach to partnership working
  - 3.11.4 Formalises the relationship/achieves greater connectivity between local and city policy, planning and development
- 3.12 A two phase process is proposed which reflects the complexity of the work and the need to ensure full stakeholder participation, including public and voluntary sector partners, community councils and other community groups. The review will enable options for a proposed governance framework to be co-produced. It is intended that this work is led by a working group drawing on a range of partners, including potential involvement by the Community of Place and Equality and Rights representatives on the Edinburgh Partnership Board. The governance proposal developed will then be subject to wider stakeholder consultation. This work will be carried out in accordance with the Consultation Framework, agreed by Council in May 2014, and informed by the National Standards for Community Engagement, adopted by the Council and the Edinburgh Partnership in March 2017.
- 3.13 The key stages and indicative timetable for this work are set out below.
- 3.13.1 Establishment of partner working group – November 2017
  - 3.13.2 Production of review scope and engagement plan – November 2017
  - 3.13.3 Agreement sought from Edinburgh Partnership – 7 December 2017
  - 3.13.4 Review – December 2017 to February 2018
  - 3.13.5 Development of proposals and production of consultation plan- February 2018
  - 3.13.6 Consultation – February to April 2018
  - 3.13.7 Proposed model developed and presented for approval to appropriate bodies – May 2018

- 3.14 To ensure there is no loss in momentum in partnership working whilst this work is carried out, it is proposed to continue with the Neighbourhood Partnerships.
- 3.15 It is proposed that strategic oversight of this work will be the responsibility of the Culture and Communities Committee, with reporting at key stages.

#### **4. Measures of success**

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- 4.1 In line with the Council Performance Framework and the outcomes assigned to each of the strategic aims.

#### **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 There are currently insufficient resources to fully administer and run locality committees. Officers are reviewing structures and arrangements and these will take account of any changes made by Council.

#### **6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 6.1 The changes proposed in the report will require changes to the Council's governance documentation including the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions. These will be required to be approved by Council.
- 6.2 Any changes to the remits of committees must consider the impact on other committee remits and ensure there are no instances where responsibilities will clash or there is no transparency on delegation of powers.
- 6.3 The Council's procedural Standing Orders will apply to locality committees.

#### **7. Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 Locality committee formation supports delivery of equalities outcomes and the protected characteristics.

#### **8. Sustainability impact**

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- 8.1 Locality committees will support delivery of sustainability outcomes.

#### **9. Consultation and engagement**

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- 9.1 Elected members have been consulted and have discussed the future of the locality committees and the potential remits they carry.
- 9.2 Any consultation carried out with stakeholders would follow the Council's agreed consultation process.

#### **10. Background reading/external references**

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None

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## **11. Appendices**

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